

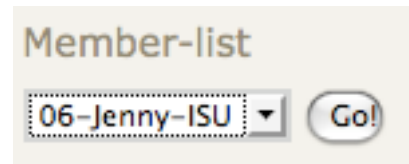
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## **Blogging to Encourage Student-Student Interaction & Deeper Reflection**

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### **What is a blog?**

- A Web log is website dedicated for members to post their ideas, musings, commentaries, and reflections.
- Social examples: <https://www.blogger.com>, <http://wordpress.com>
- Educational examples: <http://www.21classes.com>, <http://my.echalk.com>



### **Blogging works great for 3-week summer school course**

- Encourages interaction among students in between class sessions
- Increases accountability for readings and forces students to reflect and apply what they have learned in the last 24 hours.
- You hear the voice of students who don't speak up in class.
- Students enjoy it!

### **Training Students to use the blog site appropriately**

- Show examples of the differences between personal and professional blogs
- Give tips on making blogs intellectual and personal (see back side of this sheet)
- Explain the rubric by which they will be assessed: responses equally important as original posts
- Encourage intellectually provocative blog posts!

### **Assessing students' blog entries**

- Rubric with categories: separate grade for original post & responses. See back side of this sheet
- As the instructor, actively post responses at first to encourage reflective posts and to suggest improvements for weaker posts. Then stop posting responses and let students interact.
- Blog of Fame: Have students vote for their favorite blog post.

### **Logistical Issues**

- Getting everyone set up. Sign up for a computer lab.
- 2 deadlines for each blog: post original one night, post responses the next
- In a three-week session: blog posts due every other day—9 posts total—10 points each, five for original post, five for responses.
- Grading takes time (but fun). Get blog grades to students quickly so they can make adjustments for their future posts.
- Make sure all students get someone to respond to their blog posts
- Use blog posts to determine how class time should be used. Refer to ideas in class that students have blogged about—this lets students know you want to know what they think

## **Categories in the Blogging rubric**

(available online: [http://docs.google.com/Doc?id=ddtrbhg5\\_2gsdvdmnc&hl=en](http://docs.google.com/Doc?id=ddtrbhg5_2gsdvdmnc&hl=en))

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### **For original post:**

Proper blog title, literacy-based topic, length (200-500 words), referenced text or class discussion, applies ideas to personal teaching philosophy, proper spelling & grammar, honest and reflective, personal, and on time.

### **For response posts:**

Refers to specific aspect of original post, does more than agree/disagree, referenced specific ideas from class or text, takes original posting a step further, applies ideas to personal teaching philosophy, proper spelling and grammar, encourages thoughtful responses, and on time.

## **Tips for Great Educational Blogging**

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Comments should be intellectual as well as personal.

### **To make a blog entry intellectual...**

1. **Cite your reference: describe where your ideas for the blog entry are coming from.**
  - our text (use author's name)
  - other websites (always give the URL and title)
  - other blogs (give names & URL's)
2. **When responding to other blogs, quote specific lines from the original blog entry and comment on them. For example you could write, "Your comment, 'When students.....' made me think about what this may mean for students with disabilities."**
3. **Use specific examples to make your point stronger**
4. **Apply the educational concepts being talked about in the blog to take it to the "next level."**

### **To make a blog entry personal...**

1. **Apply ideas to your own educational philosophy...how does it change what you think about education, teaching or students?**
2. **Explain how would you implement this idea into your future classroom.**
3. **Make content specific comparisons and applications.**

**NOTE: While proper grammar, punctuation & spelling aren't important when social blogging; it is very important when educational blogging. Please do not use IM/text message shortcuts when writing blogs and use proper capitalization as well as spelling and punctuation. (You may want to consider constructing your postings in a Word document then copy & paste them into the blog site.)**